

Patent claims

1. Method for paying a user fee proposed by a SERVICE PROVIDER via a terminal (PC) of a USER, in which, for the use of a service, a fee is determined by a PAYMENT SERVER and the deduction of the payment from a credit account (PREPAID SERVER, BILLING CENTER) of the USER is initiated, characterized in that,

- a) at the time at which the service is requested a time for execution of the service (S1) can be defined by the service user,
- b) the fee is deducted depending on the execution time (S2..S11) .

2. Method in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that, at the time of the request, a fee amount arising at the time of execution is determined (S2..S4) and after determination of the execution time (S1) the deduction of the fee is initiated at the request time.

3. Method in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that, after the execution time is determined (S1, S6, S7) the deduction of the fee at the execution time (S8, S9) is initiated.

4. Method in accordance with Claim 3, characterized in that, at the time of the request, the level of fee arising at the execution time is determined (S2..S4).

5. Method in accordance with Claim 3, characterized in that

- a) at the time of the request, before the execution time is determined, at least a first data request is sent from the terminal (PC) to the PAYMENT SERVER (S2),

with the service request message containing the execution time as well as parameters identifying the service,

- b) the PAYMENT SERVER initiates a rating of the level of fee based on the execution time and/or the parameters (S3, S4),
- c) the level of fee determined is transmitted to the terminal transmitting and displayed to the service user with a request to enter a confirmation (S5),
- d) with a confirmation on the part of the user of the execution time is defined (S6) and this is transmitted to the payment server (S7),
- e) the PAYMENT SERVER attempts at the execution time to deduct the fee from the user's credit (S8),
- f) if the attempt is successful the provision of the service is released by the service provider (S9).

6. Method in accordance with Claim 5, characterized in that

- d2) the execution time is rejected by an entry of an alternative execution time and/or entry of the alternative execution time,
- e2) steps a) to c) are repeated with the alternative execution time.

7. Method according to Claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the PAYMENT SERVER rates the level of the fee by using a RATING SERVER taking into account at least one tariff model (S3, S4).

8. Method in accordance with Claim 7, characterized in that, to enable account to be taken of the tariff model, at least one tariff table is administered by the

2002P15410WOUS

13

PCT/EP2003/010639

RATING SERVER.